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JOSEPH HENRY JOHNSTON

By L. A. WILLIAMS
The University of North Carolina

TOO late for an appropriate article to be prepared for our last issue came the sad news of the death in France of Dr. Joseph Henry Johnston, Assistant Professor of School Administration in the School of Education of the University of North Carolina. The accompanying collection of orders,



JOSEPH HENRY JOHNSTON

letters, resolutions and appreciations evidence the high esteem in which our professional friend and brother was held by those who knew him best.

COPY OF GENERAL ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS, 322ND INFANTRY,
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,
16th October, 1918.

GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 2 O. S.

1. In the death of 1st Lieut. Joseph H. Johnston, who was killed by machine gun fire on October 15, 1918, while valiantly leading a patrol behind the enemy lines, the 322nd Infantry has lost one of its most cultured and lovable officers. Lieut. Johnston has been with the Regiment since its inception on August 31st, 1917; and throughout his connection with the organization he has impressed all with his generous and kindly nature, his quiet gentlemanly bearing toward his men and his fellow officers, and the highest sense of loyalty and duty which invariably characterized his conduct at all times.

2. Those of us who have long been associated intimately with Lieut. Johnston shall miss a brother officer, but we will cherish his memory and keep before us the fine spirit with which he made his last great sacrifice as a lasting incentive to the performance of our duty. Truly that "Courage, obedience and loyalty" which this Division holds always before its members as high soldierly qualities were amply exemplified in the life and death of our comrade.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL RICHARDSON:

FRANK W. STEVENS,
Captain, 322 Infantry,
Adjutant.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S LETTER TO LIEUTENANT
JOHNSTON'S MOTHER

FRANCE, Oct. 20, 1918.

*Mrs. C. W. Johnston,
Chapel Hill, N. C.*

DEAR MRS. JOHNSTON:

As the immediate commanding officer of Lieut. Joseph H. Johnston, it becomes my sad duty and privilege to write you personally of the circumstances of his death, notice of which has been officially forwarded to you.

I am enclosing to you a copy of General Orders which will indicate to you the esteem in which our comrade was held by the officers and men of his command.

Lieut. Johnston died in the performance of a duty with his face towards the enemy and in the enemies' territory. He was shot from a concealed enemy position while on a patrol to gain contact with the enemy as ordered by higher authority, and died within a few minutes in the arms of two of his men who stayed with him to the end.

I realize, Mrs. Johnston, that my clumsy efforts fall far short of being the consolation that is in my heart to extend to you in this, your great sacrifice. On the other hand you may well feel wonderfully proud of being able to give to the world's salvation, in the human sense, such a son.

I trust that some day I may have the privilege of meeting you in person, if I am spared after the work has been finished over here, and telling you what a privilege has been mine in having known your son.

My home is in Wilmington, N. C., where live my wife, three children and my mother. I feel that Lieut. Johnston died to make the world a fit place for them to live in and I have so written them.

* * * * *

I am mighty sorry that I couldn't say something that would lessen your sorrow, but words at such a time are poor consolation for so great a loss.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH J. LOUGHLIN,*
Capt. 322 Inf.

U. S. A. P. O. 791.

* Capt. Loughlin was recently reported in the casualty list as killed in action.

RESOLUTIONS BY THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Lieutenant Joseph Henry Johnston, born near Chapel Hill, N. C., July 25, 1889.

Killed in action, in the Argonne sector, October 15, 1918, while under orders leading his patrol in enemy territory in question of information.

A. B. University of North Carolina, 1910.

A. M. University of North Carolina, 1914.

Ph. D. University of Illinois, 1916.

Assistant Professor of School Administration in the School of Education of the University of North Carolina, 1916-1918.

A gentleman by nature, a teacher by profession, an empirical student of educational questions, he was successfully entering upon a lifetime of service in the educational development of the State, when he left all to volunteer in the United States Army in defense of human liberty.

Resolved that,

In his death the University of North Carolina suffers the loss of a genial co-laborer, an effective student of educational problems, and a teacher of vision and power.

M. C. S. NOBLE,

L. A. WILLIAMS,

W. W. RANKIN,

Committee.

December 3, 1918.

LETTER TO MRS. CHARLES HUGHES JOHNSTON FROM A FRIEND IN NEBRASKA

DEAR MRS. JOHNSTON:

We were terribly shocked and grieved to see in yesterday's list of those killed in action the name of Joseph Henry Johnston. In these terrible times we have almost reached the point of insensibility to suffering and sorrow and loss of precious life, but we are always utterly unprepared to hear that one so fine and good has been taken.

Next to his brother and mine, Henry Johnston was one of the very finest and most capable men I have ever known. His death is an irreparable loss to faculty, to education and to his friends. I had hoped that he might be spared to carry forward in education the spirit and ideals of your husband.

We know what a crushing blow this is to you. Would there was one word of comfort we could utter. We can only tell you that you have our deepest sympathy. Our hearts go out to you.

As for Henry Johnston we know he was glad to die for his country and her glorious ideals of liberty and law. America's glory is in such as he.

We know now, after a year and a half of war, more fully the price of our free institutions.

It is difficult for me to restrain my hate for a nation that has caused so much suffering in the world and destroyed so much that was beautiful.

Lellia did not know Henry Johnston personally but knew him through me. We have thought of you continuously since we heard of his death. Again I can only say that we suffer with you and for you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JESSE H. NEWLIN.

Lincoln, Nebraska, November 16, 1918.

IN MEMORIAM

EDITOR ILLINI: To the list of University men who have died for their country was added a few weeks ago the name of Dr. Joseph Henry Johnston. A Bachelor of Arts of the Uni-

versity of North Carolina, Dr. Johnston entered our Graduate School as a candidate for the doctor's degree in Education. After having successfully completed his course, he was appointed to a professorship in his Alma Mater, where he began a career that was full of usefulness and bright with promise.

Then came the war. Without hesitation Johnston entered an officers' reserve camp and in due course won his commission. Last spring he went to England; in short order he was transferred to France; and this fall he was killed in action during the hard fighting in the Argonne. The circle of his years was small but the line was drawn firm and true.

If Johnston had been an American exception, I think I could be less thankful for his life and less proud of his death. But the test which our young manhood has stood during the last year proves him to have been the rule. A Southern boy, accustomed to the social ways of the South, he might have been hailed as brother by any good son of New England or of the West; for he was of indubitable American breed in his honest persuasions, his simple convictions, and his unassuming idealism. Behind his gentle and considerate manners lay the sense of duty and the iron will upon which our American institutions and our American traditions are founded. He was a fit man to take passage on the returning Mayflower—to borrow a happy thought from Gilbert Murray—and to serve as a comrade in arms with the countrymen of Lafayette. Now he rests in the soil of France. And we, insofar as we are true Americans, are the fortunate heirs and the responsible trustees of the laurels that he and such as he have won.—H. S. V. JONES.

AN APPRECIATION

Lieutenant Joseph Henry Johnston, A. B. 1910, A. M. 1914, Ph. D. (University of Illinois) 1916, who was killed in action in the Argonne on October 15th, 1918, was born in Orange County, July 25th, 1889. He was the son of C. W., and Agnes Hughes Johnston, one of nine children. He came to the University as Assistant Professor of School Administration in September, 1916, and was given a leave of absence at his request in the spring of 1917 that he might offer his services to his country as a volunteer.

He entered the Oglethorpe first Officers' Training Camp (from which he graduated) in May, 1917, and was commissioned as First Lieutenant on August 17th of that same year. He was a member of the Officers' Reserve and rendered his first service at Camp Jackson, S. C., from which position he was moved to Camp Sevier, S. C.

A member of the 322nd Regiment, 81st Division (Stonewall) since its inception, August 31st, 1917, he was sent to France as an officer in the Intelligence Corps of that Division. Stationed in the Argonne, he died in enemy territory while under orders leading his patrol.

Dr. Johnston was a loyal son of the University, thinking first and always of her prosperity and her opportunities for service. He left to the University